

Miriam Papadimitriou

March 7, 2011

Testimony for SB#1106 An Act Concerning the Establishment of the Department of Early Education and Child Development

Dear Members of the Education Committee,

My name is Miriam Papadimitriou and I have run a licensed in-home daycare center in New Britain for almost eight years. Children in my daycare practice their numbers in English and Spanish, get nutritious meals, and learn to share and get along with others in a homey setting. I know that many parents find it too frustrating to deal with the process in place to get subsidized child care. I help them as much as I can, even though it means accepting less pay.

For example, a single mother came to me for child care but said she couldn't pay the difference between the subsidy and my day care rate. She is in a job training program (CT Works) and under the regulations she is supposed to be eligible for the subsidy but has not been receiving it. I have been taking care of her child for free while she waits for the state's contractor (Care 4 Kids) to approve three months of subsidies. I was going to ask her to find another provider but where would she go?

This woman is doing everything she is supposed to do to become self sufficient and provide for her child. She faxes in the documentation again and again. I was told that the fax machine is on a different floor from the worker, that she shouldn't expect the worker to receive the faxes the same day they are sent but sometimes they are not received at all. Once I received four month's worth of invoices! The system needs to be better organized. With a union we can resolve issues like this and work with the state to provide fair reimbursement rates.

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